

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1068
By Davis

A RESOLUTION to commend Jim N. Brantner, M.D. for his honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee as founder of Fresh Start Surgical Gifts of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should honor those individuals who have selflessly given of their time and resources for the betterment of their respective communities and of the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Jim Brantner, M.D. is one such estimable person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, through his selfless acts of kindness and dedication to improving the lives of the children of this State, Dr. Brantner has established himself as a public-minded citizen of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, inspired by Dr. Dennis Nigro, founder of Fresh Start Surgical Gifts, Dr. Brantner established the Tennessee Chapter of Fresh Start, Inc. in order to "build a community of volunteers committed to seeing that every child with a physical deformity is given the opportunity to have a positive self-image,"; and

WHEREAS, Fresh Start Surgical Gifts is a non-profit organization that provides free reconstructive surgical procedures to children and young people who suffer from physical deformities, as well as providing transportation and lodging for these children and their families; and

WHEREAS, in 1999, Dr. Brantner opened the doors of the East Tennessee Ambulatory Surgery Center in Johnson City, and the 6,000-square-foot center has since been used in the performance of over 90 surgeries and 22 minor procedures with Fresh Start; and

WHEREAS, enlisting the aid of numerous medical and lay volunteers, Fresh Start of Tennessee holds marathon "Surgery Weekends" every 6 to 8 weeks; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Brantner's compassionate leadership and great humanity have provided hope to many children and his endeavors with Fresh Start are deserving of the utmost respect and commendation; and

WHEREAS, a native of Seattle, Washington, Dr. Brantner earned his Bachelor of Science degree from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, his Master of Science degree from the California Institute of Technology, and began his tenure in the medical field at Emory University School of Medicine where he earned his Doctor of Medicine degree; and

WHEREAS, in addition to completing an internship at William Beaumont AMC, and residencies at Tripler AMC and Walter Reed AMC, Dr. Brantner has also received training at the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Service Systems, Pacific Presbyterian Hospital, Rochester University, University of South Carolina, and the University of California, San Diego; and

WHEREAS, certified by the American Board of Plastic Surgery, Dr. Brantner has utilized his talents as a physician and surgeon at hospitals throughout the United States, as well as in Frankfurt, Germany; he has served Johnson City and the surrounding Tri-Cities area since 1994; and

WHEREAS, a consummate professional, Dr. Brantner holds membership in the American Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons, the Tennessee Medical Association, and he has served as an Associate Professor at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences; and

WHEREAS, having published research relative to facial reconstruction, surgical treatments for chronic ailments, and plastic surgery procedures, Dr. Brantner has also spoken on these topics at medical conferences throughout the United States and Germany; and

WHEREAS, a patriotic and courageous American, Dr. Brantner is also a veteran of the United States Army from which he retired at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Brantner's remarkable success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his uncommon ability to successfully treat patients from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people whom life has treated unkindly, Dr. Brantner epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant, and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Dr. Brantner is fortunate to share both love and companionship with his wife, the former Winifred Sills Wynn, and their five children; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Brantner is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby commend Jim N. Brantner, M.D. for his honorable and astute service to the people, especially the children, of Tennessee and this Nation as founder of the Tennessee Chapter of Fresh Start Surgical Gifts, Inc. and salute his unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.